

Case No. 2015-00005

6335 Meathouse Road

Pilgrim, KY 41250

Kentucky Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, Ky 40602

Ginni Smith, Consumer Services Representative

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2015

PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

I want to file a complaint or objection to the huge one time rate increase filed by the Martin County, Ky Water District. I will discuss the Tap Fee which would increase from \$350 to \$1000. Some 8 years ago when I needed a tap made, it was a nightmare. I was put off and put off. I knew a man who was on the Water Board. He told me that at that time the board had 198 complaints and he advised me to contact your Dept. for help., which I did. You have a record of calls, letters, etc. this was the fall of 2005. On my last call to your Dept, I was told, "If they do not make your tap within 5 days, you call me back!" They showed on the last day. It was a simple tap beside the road probably taking an hour.

Martin County is mostly Rural, Elderly Residents like myself, who are on a fixed income. The tap fee was \$350, by the time I bought 100 feet of the Required water line, a Pressure Regulator, various stops and other brass fittings, Pressure gauge, Cut off tool I was out well over \$550 total. I also had about 70 feet of ditch to dig as the space was too confined for a machine. This took me about 2 weeks as I was 65 then.

I am not criticizing the current Employees. I do not think that these Incredible price increases should be approved on a people who are least able to afford them.

When the Sewer Project goes in, water prices will double.

When the county comes up with a Garbage Fee, it will tack another \$17.00 or more onto each water bill.

We never know when Water is going to be turned off. They could post the time and date for repairs on Face Book. I feel that

Burdensome , onerous and financial Increases should not be placed upon the backs of citizens of Martin County who can ill afford to pay. Almost everyone has to buy bottled water to drink!!!!

Thank You,

Homer Muncy

Enc: Copy of Mountain Citizen (Martin County Newspaper warning about the rate increase.)

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713 South Lake Dr.,
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MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

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Water district seeks huge rate increase

Utility petitions PSC for hike in 'nonrecurring' charges

BY GARY BALL
CITIZEN EDITOR

MARTIN COUNTY — The Martin County Water District plans to seek a huge increase

for services effective Jan. 1, 2015 with the Kentucky Public Service Commission.

In a legal notice published this week in the *Mountain Citizen*, the water district has

petitioned the state's regulatory agency for public service for increases ranging from 140 to 275 percent for "nonrecurring services," or services other than a monthly bill for water usage.

The water district also asks that these new charges become effective on Feb. 1, 2015.

Proposed increases are as

See **RATE**, page 5A

WATER

FROM FRONT PAGE

follows:

- * Tap fee (5/8 to 3/4 inch meter) from \$350 to \$1,000;
- * Returned check — from \$10 to \$30;
- * Meter turn on — from \$15 to \$40;
- * Meter turn on (after hours) — from \$25 to \$60;

- * Meter re-read — from \$15 to \$40;
- * Meter re-read (customer request) — from \$20 to \$75;
- * Service Call/Investigation — from \$15 to \$40;
- * Service Call/Investigation (after hours) — from \$25 to \$60;
- * Meter reconnection — from \$15 to \$40; and

- * Meter reconnection (after hours) — from \$25 to \$60.

One customer who lives in the Warfield/Lovely area and who wished not to be identified called these charges "outrageous."

"We pay more than enough for water now," the person said. "Every time you look around there are leaks along the main

line. Your water goes off and nobody knows the reason why it's off. I've gotten up in the morning to shower to get ready for work and the water is off. Now they want to raise our rates? For what? It's plenty high enough now."

Anyone wanting to examine the filing can do so by visiting the water district's office or calling 298-3885.

For a more effective way to contest the increase is calling the PSC at (502) 564-3940 and ask to speak to consumer services representative Ginni Smith.

It is best to call and file a complaint and follow up with a well-written complaint detailing why you believe these hikes are not justified.

You can submit a request for intervention by the PSC by writing Kentucky Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Ky., 40602.

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several days after the fact or that the problem supposedly has been corrected, we see a notice on T.V. or in the paper "DON'T DRINK THE WATER — BREAK IN THE LINE! or whatever.

I clearly am AGAINST A RATE INCREASE and I encourage everyone to call the PSC at 502—564-3940 and ask for GINNI SMITH or better yet, write a complaint to KY. Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Ky. 40602.

If we sit back and do nothing on this it will continue to raise until all our money will be going to the WATER DISTRICT and what doesn't, will go for BUYING WATER.

I think I can find more important things to do with my HARD EARNED MONEY than give it all for R O T T E N CONTAMINATED WATER THAT THE VERY OWN WATER DISTRICT TELLS US NOT TO DRINK! Please LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD.

And to the MARTIN COUNTY CITIZEN — I really hope your paper takes a big stand against this horrible action by the water district because I am certain it will impact the action of this water company. Thank you.

* * *

Dear SOCIETY
— When I saw the paper and the headlines were "WATER DISTRICT SEEKS HUGE RATE INCREASE," I thought this can't be what I am reading.

Mainly, we can't even drink the water. Go through the line at the grocery store and everyone in line has something in common .. THEY ARE ALL BUYING WATER. Then frequently we get a card in the mail saying, THIS WATER MAY OR CAN CAUSE CANCER AND NOT TO DRINK IT. (Well, I guess that covers their butts so when we all get cancer, we can't SUE THEM!)

Anyway, the bad part of the cards is we get them after there has been a water restriction that no one was notified not to drink the water. The